

# u3a learn, laugh, live

Maldon and District

## Newsletter



Garden Group visit to Peacocks, Margaretting

*Photo by Brigitte Whiteing*

June 2023

[www.maldonu3a.co.uk](http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk)

Registered Charity 1086182

## FROM THE CHAIR

I hope that by the time you read this, some warm summer weather will have made an appearance as it makes such a difference to the enjoyment of outdoor activities such as croquet, pétanque, garden visits and walks. I'm certainly looking forward to our visit to Blunts Hall garden in Witham at the beginning of July. It would be nice not to have to take a coat!



Being marooned at home with a fractured ankle, thus missing my regular u3a activities and social events, has sharpened my appreciation of what the u3a can offer. Retirement can be isolating, especially if, like me, you have no family nearby, but it need not be so. u3a groups like ours offer a range of activities, all of which are very affordable. This is possible because each u3a is run entirely by its own members. For a voluntary group to survive and succeed, it needs a constantly changing committee to bring energy and new ideas. After all, the next 25 years cannot be a repeat of the first quarter century. I do hope that the new generation of retirees want to do things differently, as revitalization and renewal are essential to any organisation.

Officer roles on the Committee have limited terms of office (usually 3 years) to avoid overloading a few individuals. Thankfully we have a new Newsletter editor, but there will be other posts to fill over the next few months. Can you help and become part of the Maldon & District u3a story for the future? It requires some commitment but it is also rewarding.

Theresa Byles Vice Chair

*Ken Hazell is on holiday*

**Maldon & District u3a**  
**1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**  
**Membership Subscription Renewals**

**Subscriptions are due by no later than 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2023.**

Please use our web site [maldonu3a.co.uk](http://maldonu3a.co.uk) and complete the forms under "Membership Renewal". If you are unable to do this then renewal forms are available from the Membership Secretary. Each member must complete a separate form.

Annual subscription is £20.00 per person, which can be paid by Bank Transfer into Barclays Bank. Account name – Maldon U3A; sort code 20-54-30; Account number 53198995, the reference you use MUST be your forename and surname – with no space e.g., johnsmith; or if you wish, you can still pay by cheque which should be made payable to Maldon & District u3a..

**Using the web site and paying by Bank Transfer is the preferred way.**

The completed form(s) together with your payment must be made before the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. We do not accept cash. The forms together with your cheque (if paying by cheque) MUST be returned to the Membership Secretary

**Data Protection Law and Data Base:** The Renewal forms are used to check our database, please indicate on the form if your details are unchanged from your original renewal. Any changes then please advise the Membership Secretary.

**Emergency Contact:** Where couples are both members, please avoid using each other as emergency contacts. Please also ensure that you have the consent to use the name and telephone number of the person/s named as your emergency contact.

**Gift Aid:** Please indicate on the form "I want to Gift Aid" if you able to gift aid your subscription.

**DO IT NOW: You do not have to wait until the end of August.**

**Membership cards have already been sent to you (white plastic bar coded credit card size) in May 2020 or when you joined if after this date.**

## MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 17th July 2023

Wickham Bishops Hall Doors open at 1:30 for 1:45 start

Tim Turner

### Fakes & Forgeries

Tim Turner, who until he retired, worked for 40 years as an auctioneer and valuer for Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers, one of the longest established fine art and antiques auction houses in the United Kingdom. He is now a volunteer at Audley End House.

The talk opens up a world of skulduggery and deception in the art world!

*Please remember your Membership Card*

## MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2023

August 21st	Jenny Gibbs	Life in a Turkish Village
September 18th	Cherith Lowry	The Gibberd Garden
October 16th	Julie Miller	The Combined Military Services Museum – One man's obsession
November 20th	Patrick Forsyth	Unaccustomed as I Am ...
December 18th	Christmas	tba

If you know of any speakers that you can recommend please contact the Speaker Secretary. Theresa Byles

## AVIATION GROUP

May 16th was the anniversary of Operation Chastise- the Dam Buster raid; one of the most audacious and far-reaching events of WW2. I was privileged to attend a talk given by the staff at the Brooklands Museum (the working place of Dr Barnes Wallis) during which they showed the page of W/COM Guy Gibson's Flying Log Book for May 14th/15th and 16th.

On the 14th he recorded a "Full dress rehearsal to Uppingham Lake &

11	LANCASTER	♀	SELF	DUAL CREW	LOW LEVEL. OPHEEP DROPPED AT 60 FT. PROD ROW OF 600YARD
14	"	♀	SELF	" "	BOOMBAY LOW LEVEL AND V.H.F. TEST.
14	"	♀	"	" "	"
			9/10 WHITWORTH. A.S.O. D.F.C.		FULL DRESS REHEARSAL ON DRAMWAY LAKE AND COLCHESTER RES. COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL.
16	LANCASTER	♀	SELF	Sgt POLFORD P/O DERRING PLT TAYLOR PLT HUTCHINGS P/O SPAFFORD P/O TROTT	LED ATTACK ON FLOING AN EBER DAYS. SUCCESSFUL.

Colchester Reservoir" (we know it as Abberton Reservoir).

There were two crews on board for the rehearsal, so the chances are that they did more than one run over the reservoir - I wonder if there are any family memories of 15 plus Lancasters waking up the surrounding villages with Merlin engines at full power??? - this would have been at 220mph, 50ft altitude around 12 midnight 14th/15th June 1943!!??!!

This month our June meeting has been put back to July 7th, when we visit the De Havilland Museum at Salisbury Hall. We have a 16-seater minibus calling at West Maldon Community Centre (09.30am) and Eves Corner (10.00am) to collect people who prefer not to drive. The minibus cost is £10 per person and entry to the museum is £12..

## FROM THE EDITOR

Hello one and all. Well Liz has certainly left big shoes to fill and I'm hoping that I will be up to it. My name is Kris Taylor and you may have seen me at History, Gardening or Pétanque., and occasionally a few other groups. I spent a working lifetime in Marketing & PR, chiefly as an Event Organiser. Please bear with me while I reacquaint myself with technology that I last used in the dim and distant past.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kris Taylor



## POETRY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is Thursday July 6th, starting at 2:00 pm in a member's house. The poetry subject for this meeting is "Summer", and there are several poets who have written poems on this subject, including Shelley and Shakespeare

Jo Robson



  
**The Silver Line**  
helpline for older people

0800 4 70 80 90 [www.thesilverline.org.uk](http://www.thesilverline.org.uk)

The Silver Line is the only free confidential helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people, open 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

## STROLLERS TUESDAY GROUP

The group had its monthly walk on the 23rd May which was approx. 4.5 miles around Kelvedon. The route was the same as last year except it was in reverse which made it seem like a completely new walk. Also the weather was a lot better – sunshine instead of last year’s drizzle!

Although only 6 people went on the walk it was very enjoyable as was the lunch in the Railway Tavern afterwards.

David & Linda Ambrose

The walk on **Tuesday 25th July** will be from The Swan pub, School Road, Little Totham, CM9 8LB. Cars can be parked in The Swan rear car park.

It will be approximately 4.35 miles, crossing fields, through woods and on some roads.

Meet at 10:15 for 10:30 outside The Swan. Orders for lunch at 13:00 at The Swan will be taken prior to departing on our walk.

Please let me know by Monday 17th July if you intend to walk and if you would like lunch

I cannot guarantee availability for lunch after this date.

David Griffiths

Currently there are a few places left on the 'bus.

If you wish to make your own way there, we expect the 'bus will arrive about 11.00am.

The full address of the museum is The de Havilland Aircraft Museum, Salisbury Hall, London Colney, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL2 1BU.

Our calendar for the rest of the year is as follows:

**June** – No Meeting

**Friday 7th July** – **Visit** to de Havilland Museum at Salisbury Hall near Hatfield. See above for details.

**Friday 28th July** –11am Danbury Cricket Pavilion – **film** on Concorde; concept, design, and operation.

**August** Summer break

**Friday 29th September** –11am Danbury Cricket Pavilion – illustrated **talk** by fellow member David Gillespie on his flight of a lifetime in the restored Canadian Lancaster.

Chris Samson

## **THE BIG BALTI**

The next curry night will be held on **Monday 31st July** at the Bulti Bhujon restaurant, Mill Road, Maldon. 6.30ish start.

To add your name to the list please contact:

Graham Evans

Bob Gowers

## LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Thank you to those of you who attended our meeting in May, when we heard the fascinating story of Perrywood, a Garden Nursery in Tiptree, which started in a small, basic way and has built up over about 70 years to the vast business it is today.

Our next meeting is on **Monday June 26th** at 2p.m. at the Town Hall, when we will have a talk by Max Fox entitled "Amazing Links of Colchester (from Cleopatra to Vietnam)" Intriguing!!

Max is a Blue Badge Guide in Colchester and is currently Head of Health and Safety at Colchester Institute.

For our meeting on **Monday July 24th** we will have another outing. Please meet in the church yard of St. Peter's outside the Maeldune Centre at 2p.m. when we will continue our walk down Maldon High Street, pointing out buildings and places of interest. The walk will take about an hour, and should be easier than the last time as the pavements are wider. There is no need to book.,

Meanwhile, enjoy the sunshine, watch your step and we look forward to seeing you on June 26th  
Kathy and Sylvia

I am attempting to run a trip to Kensington Palace to see the Crown to Couture exhibition and Palace tour on **Thursday 14th September**. The cost will be approx. £42.50. If any members are interested in joining us could they please contact me.

Many thanks

Kathy Goff coordinator for Royal and Local History Groups

## BIRD WATCHING GROUP

### Visit to Landguard Bird Observatory

It weighs the same as a 20p coin and measures 9cm in length. Yet the adventurous goldcrest – Britain's smallest bird – flew from Norway to Suffolk in just two days, to be caught in a net at the observatory, located in the historic fort at the tip of the Landguard peninsula. This hotspot for migratory birds travelling to and from their breeding grounds is also a key bird ringing site, where their weight, health and breeding condition is recorded by a team of volunteers.

The warden, Peter Denyer – who ringed 1,417 birds last year – assured us that no birds were harmed in the process. The birds caught come from far and near, ranging in size from goldcrest to herring gull.

Other birds, such as wheatears, have flown from much further afield. They arrive from sub-Saharan Africa, with some heading for breeding grounds in Greenland. Others cross the Atlantic to breed in the Arctic tundra of Canada. Occasionally rare visitors such as the pied wheatear turn up in the nets. These were classed as members of the thrush family, but are now considered to be a type of flycatcher. Pied wheatears occur in the extreme south-east of Europe to China, and are very rare visitors to western Europe.

Another real rarity caught at the observatory is the white throated sparrow, a common bird in N America, whose numbers have declined by 87% in the past 50 years. They are not alone. As Peter Denyer told us, bird numbers passing through Landguard have declined sharply in recent years through a combination of causes such as bird flu, climate change, loss of habitat and food sources.

Birds are not the only wildlife monitored at the reserve.

Moth numbers are monitored – as are bats fitted with tiny radio transmitters which drop off after three weeks. One, believed to be a pipistrelle, has been tracked twice crossing from Suffolk to Amsterdam ,while another was last heard heading south through Germany.

Mike Bagshaw

## Birdwatching Group Programme 2023

2nd July	Wallasea Island	Meet in RSPB car park
	No meeting in August	
9th September	Bradwell	Meet in St Peter's Chapel car park
8th October	Walton on the Naze	Meet in Naze Tower car park
4th November	Two Tree Island, Leigh-on-Sea	Meet in car park
3rd December	Maldon promenade	Meet by Rossi's ice cream kiosk

All rendezvous times 10am unless otherwise stated.

For full locations details or car share requests please contact:

Peter Gaywood

Michael Bagshaw

### Seafarers Centre, Tilbury

The centre are asking for donations of toiletries, suitable for male and female, knitted items such as hats, gloves, scarves, socks, jerseys – any colour, any size. Plus jigsaw puzzles & DVDs. If you are able to donate any of these, please contact Malcolm Case , who will deliver them to the centre.

On behalf of the centre, thank you.

## GERMAN CONVERSATION

The dates of the next meeting of the group are:

**Tuesday 20th June.**

Tuesday 4th July

Tuesday 18th July

Tuesday 1st August

All meetings take place at Howard Broadbridge's house and begin at 2.00pm

Howard Broadbridge

## RNLI 5p & 20p Collection Pots

On behalf of the RNLI, can I thank you for your continued support with filling the collection pots. £103.53 has been collected so far this year and this brings our overall total to £506.09. Yes, I know this doesn't divide by 5p or 20p! Suffice to say any coins are acceptable!!

Please keep up the good work and hand them in at the Maritime or Main meetings.

Mary Burd      Malcolm Case

## MARITIME GROUP Programme 2023

<b>Mon 3rd July</b>	<b>Talk by Barbara Jones of Lloyds Register about the History of Lloyds over the past 260+ years.</b>
<b>Mon 7th August</b>	<b>Visit to Foxton Locks/Incline with a guided tour and a visit to the Museum. Lunch (not included) will be at a local pub – cost per person £35.00, this includes the coach, driver's gratuity, coach parking, guided tour and Museum visit.</b>

<p><b>Mon 4th September</b></p>	<p>Talk and updates by John Rayment on the <b>Restoration of the Sailing Barge “Pudge”</b>.</p>
<p><b>Mon 2nd October</b></p>	<p>Talk by Simon Gregor who will take us on a <b>virtual stroll along the Thames</b> from Vauxhall to Westminster, uncovering some of London’s rich history along the way. Sometimes on the embankment, and sometimes diving into quaint side streets, this talk will explore not only big sights like the Palace of Westminster and the Tate Britain Gallery, but also some of the less well-known history lurking in the back streets, with the Thames itself providing a constantly-flowing thread linking the city together.</p>
<p><b>Mon 6th November</b></p>	<p>Talk by John Pomfrett on the <b>City of Lakes and Rivers – waterways in and around Berlin</b>. Following a brief introduction to the early, largely natural river navigations that served Berlin from its founding in the 13th century, this talk traces the development of the canals and river navigations around Berlin, from the early canals of the 17th century, through the peak of expansion in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, to final completion of the Mittellandkanal in 2003, following the re-unification of Germany. Having set the scene, we then take a tour along the present-day waterway system, starting with the complex network of waterways within the city, then looking at the links to the Baltic, the Elbe and the Rhein and upstream to the unique waterways of the Spreewald. We will see ports and palaces, locks, lakes and a lido, old and new boat lifts and many other points of interest in and around this fascinating city.</p>
<p><b>Mon 4th December</b></p>	<p>Talk by Simon Stephens of the National Maritime Museum Greenwich on <b>“Model Boat building for the National Maritime Museum”</b>. Followed by discussions on our 2024 programme and some Christmas cheer.</p>

All meetings are held at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin on the first Monday of the month, starting at 10.00am.

## ASTRONOMY GROUP



The next meeting will be a visit to The Observatory Science Centre, Herstmonceux, East Sussex. Details and date are still to be finalised. If you would like to come on this visit, please contact Malcolm Case. Our future plans include a presentation by Roger and June Pittock of their Astro Photographs with details on how to achieve good pictures.

Malcolm Case

## FILM GROUP

The two films under review certainly received differing reviews. One considered to be a good watch, with the other getting a thumbs down.

**"Trauma"** - Slow, muddled with too many flashbacks. As Denis suggested, it was probably an experimental idea to show the breakdown of the main character as experienced in his own mind. However, it just became a confusing mess with the audience not knowing if other characters or events in the film were real or not. Even the splendid Colin Firth couldn't save the day. Generally not well liked, although Graeme did find it interesting and worth watching. Score: 4

**"Doineann"** - This film was much better and considered a good watch. Cleverly made with plot twists and a surprising ending. The acting was very good, with special praise going to Brid Brennan who played the Garda detective. The dialogue was excellent, as was the scenery and music, all giving a sense of impending disaster. Score: 7

The film selections for this month are "**Bill**", a 2015 British family adventure comedy film from the principal performers behind the children's TV series Horrible Histories and Yonderland. The film is a fictional take on the young William Shakespeare's search for fame and fortune. Bill is set during Shakespeare's "lost years" – the crucial period, long a mystery to scholars, covering his rise from obscurity to fame as a playwright. The film will tell the "real story" of what happens when "hopeless" lute player Bill Shakespeare leaves his family and home to follow his dreams. It's a tale of murderous kings, spies, lost loves, and a plot to blow up Queen Elizabeth I.

"**Eaten by Lions**" is a 2019 British comedy film. The film stars Antonio Aakeel as Omar and Jack Carroll as Pete. Half brothers Pete and Omar's parents are eaten by lions when their hot air balloon crashes in a safari park, so their grandmother takes them in. When she dies she leaves Omar information about his father kept secret from him. This leads them to embark on a journey to Blackpool in search of his estranged father.

Both available on BBC iPlayer

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, 28th June**, at 7.30pm via Zoom. If you would like to join us please get in touch.

Shirley Macro

## WINE GROUP 2

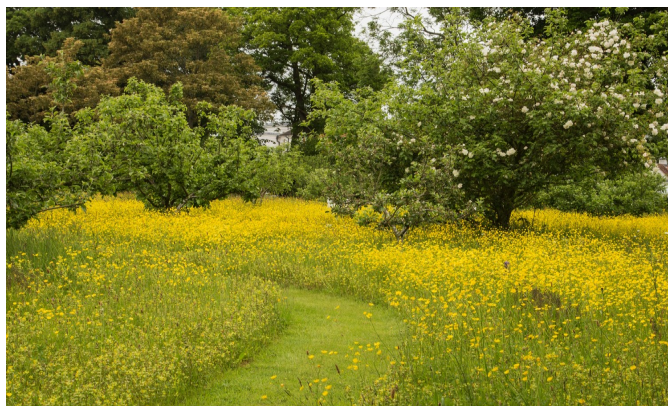
Wine Group 2 are looking for a further two u3a members to join us. We meet once a month on the fourth Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. in each other's houses. The next meeting is on **Wednesday 28 June**.

For more details, please ring Graham Boswell

## GARDEN GROUP

The Garden Group made a repeat visit to the award-winning Peacocks garden in Margaretting at the end of May.

We visited last year in the blazing heat; this time the weather was much more temperate – cool and cloudy in fact, but this did not diminish the beauty around us. There are a number of different areas to the garden ranging from the formal, such as the Moorish-styled garden with fountain, to the traditional, such as the perennial border, through to the very natural –although with man’s helping hand of course. What is more lovely than a meadow full of buttercups and wild flowers? Perhaps one that includes an apple tree with a white climbing rose growing through it.



Theresa Byles

## JUST JAZZ GROUP

### Monday 19th June

The next meeting will be at The Little Ship Club, The Hythe Quay, Maldon, 7.30pm until 9.30pm. I look forward to seeing old and new members for a drink at the bar and some great music.

David Coombes

## STROLLERS SUNDAY

We will be leading a walk around Ulting/Nounsley followed by lunch at The Rayleigh Arms, Terling, on **Sunday 16th July**.

If you would like to join us we meet in the layby opposite Nounsley playing field, Ulting Road, CM32LU. at 10.15 for 10.30 start.

Please contact Peta Verney to confirm if you wish to join the walk and whether you require lunch.

Peta & Graham Verney

## WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome the following new member:

Linda Rooney

You in  
your 3rd  
age

# YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Ken Hazell
Vice Chairman	Theresa Byles
Secretary	Carol Bates
Treasurer	Geoff Cory
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case
Newsletter Editor	Kris Taylor
Speaker Secretary	Theresa Byles
Groups Co-ordinator	Malcolm Case
Committee	Alec Fraser Tony Groves Andrew Simmonds
Webmaster	Tony Groves
Social Group	Michael Childs

## Contact the u3a Office

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**Deadline for next newsletter: 4th July 2023**

# CO-ORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Judith Johnston Andy Simmonds	London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Sheila Childs
Aviation	Chris Samson	Meet & Eat	Joan Cummins
Astronomy	Malcolm Case	Mah-Jong	Mags Pell
Balti Night	Bob Gowers Graham Evans	Maritime	Malcolm Case
Bird Watching	Peter Gaywood Michael Bagshaw	Music Appreciation	tba
Bridge	Gill Cory	Padel Tennis	Ken Hazell
Canasta	Iris Slaney	Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash Geoff Macro
Cribbage	Pat Clements	Photography	Tony Groves
Croquet	Geoff Macro Shirley Macro	Poetry	Jo Robson
Discussion	Pat Jones	Reading	tba
Film Club	Shirley Macro	Rummikub	Janice Martin
French Conversation	Ann Lester	Scottish Country Dancing	Diana Rogers
Garden Visits	Theresa Byles Kris Taylor	Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Geology	Sylvia Cousins	Strollers Sunday & Tuesday Group	Malcolm Case
German	Howard Broadbridge	Tenpin Bowling	David Arnold
Handicraft	Marian Manning Brenda Heal	Wine Circle No. 2	Graham Boswell
History—Georgians	Kathy Goff	Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd
Just Jazz	Peter Condon David Coombes	Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
Local History	Sylvia Cousins Kathy Goff	Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Comment on *“Third Age Matters”*  
via *Patrick Forsyth*

third age <sup>u3a</sup>  
**matters**

# Schedule of Events – July 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
					1	2 Bird Watching Wallasea Is
3 Maritime History of Lloyd's of London	4 German Garden Visit-Blunts Hall	5 Tenpin Bowling Bridge Padel Tennis Croquet	6 Tenpin Bowling Petanque Poetry Rummikub	7 Aviation visit to de Havilland Museum Mah-Jong	8	9
10 Discussion Handicrafts	11	12 Tenpin Bowling Meet & Eat Padel Tennis Art Appreciation Wine Group	13 Tenpin Bowling Petanque History-Georgians Scottish Dancing French	14 Sing for Pleasure Canasta	15	16 Strollers
17 <b>Monthly Meeting</b>  Just Jazz	18 German	19 Tenpin Bowling Bridge Croquet Photography Padel Tennis Geology Field Trip	20 Tenpin Bowling Petanque	21 Mah-Jong	22	23
24 Local History-Maldon Walk  Astronomy	25 Strollers Too Wine Group	26 Ten Pin Bowling Film Group Padel Tennis Wine Group Writing for fun	27 Tenpin Bowling Petanque Wine Group French Music Appreciation Scottish Dancing	28 Reading Aviation Canasta Cribbage Sing for Pleasure	29	30
31 Curry Night						

Schedule correct at time of publication – please confirm dates with co-ordinators.